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Compilation on Benin

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies[1, 2]

2. The West Africa Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) stated that, despite the recommendations accepted during its second universal periodic review,[3] Benin had still not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, or the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute. It had also not published the treaties it had ratified,[4] and a number of reports to treaty bodies had not yet been submitted.[5]

3. OHCHR had continued to provide Benin with technical and financial support in the field of human rights, including for the development and implementation of the human rights agenda, as officially requested by the Ministry of Justice, and of legislation.[6]

4. OHCHR stated that, with the support of its technical and financial support fund and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the recommendations accepted by Benin during the second cycle had been the subject of a national implementation plan developed and publicized in a participatory and inclusive manner. This project had also received financial support from the Voluntary Trust Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review.[7]

III. National human rights framework[8]

5. OHCHR stated that some recommendations on legislative measures had not yet been implemented. These largely concerned the adoption of the new Criminal Code, an act on

gender equality and women's participation in political life, an act on access for all to public information and an act on the enjoyment of freedom of association, freedom of assembly and freedom to demonstrate.[9]

6. Benin had not yet set up the Beninese Human Rights Commission established in 2013; the process of selecting its members, begun in 2015, had not yet been completed.[10] In 2015, the Human Rights Committee recommended appointing the members as soon as possible and guaranteeing the Commission's independence by ensuring its financial autonomy and adequate resources to enable it to fulfil its mandate in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).[11]

7. OHCHR regretted the lack of a national monitoring mechanism for women's rights and the absence of statistics on violations of women's rights.[12]

8. In 2014, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography regretted the lack of a reliable information and monitoring/evaluation system in Benin, to assess the impact of human rights policies and programmes.[13] She recommended the establishment of a centralized, standardized and reliable information-gathering and processing system to collect data disaggregated by age, sex, background and status.[14]

9. The same Special Rapporteur recommended that the United Nations bodies and technical and financial partners put in place a coordination framework in order to ensure synergy, consistency and complementarity between the various actions carried out.[15]

IV. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Cross-cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination[16]

10. The Human Rights Committee welcomed the Plan of Action against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, adopted in 2014.[17]

11. In 2013, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women commended Benin for its progressive Persons and Family Code.[18] However, it recommended that Benin withdraw the discriminatory provisions against women and amend Act No. 65-17 (1965) on nationality, with a view to granting women equal rights with men regarding the retention or loss of their nationality, and the transmission of Beninese nationality to their foreign spouses.[19] The Committee on the Rights of the Child made similar recommendations.[20]

12. In 2014, UNHCR noted that the Benin Constitutional Court had struck down elements of the country's national code that restricted women's ability to confer nationality to their children and spouses, paving the way for the adoption of a gender-equal law.[21]

B. Civil and political rights

1. Right to life, liberty and security of person[22]

13. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at the situation of 13 death row inmates whose sentences had not been commuted, despite the accession of Benin to the 2nd OP-ICCPR. The Committee recommended adopting the new Criminal Code so as to expressly abolish the death penalty, and commuting death sentences to prison sentences.[23] OHCHR indicated that the Ministry of Justice and Legislation had spent several months looking at how the accepted recommendation was being implemented.[24] It also noted a slight improvement in the detention conditions of persons sentenced to death, particularly as regards the length of time they could spend outside their cells.[25]

14. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at cases of mob justice and extrajudicial killings of persons suspected of offences, and at the excessive use of force by the law enforcement officials.[26] OHCHR noted the statement made by the Council of Ministers in 2016 condemning acts of vigilante justice, but also the lack of progress towards effective measures to bring about changes in behaviour and towards prosecution of the perpetrators.[27] The Human Rights Committee recommended that Benin conduct investigations in order to identify and prosecute the perpetrators of extrajudicial killings, impose appropriate penalties and provide reparation to the victims or to their families. It also recommended that Benin ensure that law enforcement officials comply with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, of 1990.[28]

15. While noting that Benin had made considerable progress in strengthening its legal framework for the protection of children, the Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned that children born with disabilities and so-called "sorcerer's" children were likely to be killed or abandoned by their parents.[29] OHCHR noted the absence of available statistics on cases of violations of children's right to life and violence against children.[30]

16. The Special Rapporteur on sale of children was informed about the growing phenomenon of missing children. In the first half of 2013, 233 children had been reported missing, and in 2012, 521 children. The Special Rapporteur had not received any information on action taken by Benin on those cases.[31]

17. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at information relating to cases of torture and ill-treatment, in particular during the first hours of deprivation of liberty.[32]

18. OHCHR noted that the criminalization of torture in the new Criminal Code had not yet come into effect;[33] the same applied to the establishment of a legal framework for the national mechanism for the prevention of torture.[34]

19. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Benin expressly define and criminalize torture as soon as possible, establish a national observatory for the prevention of torture in addition to an independent mechanism for the systematic consideration of related complaints, and conduct investigations into all related allegations.[35]

20. The same Committee was concerned at poor detention conditions in Benin.[36] OHCHR noted the construction of new prisons in Abomey-Calavi and Abomey, the ongoing construction of prisons in Parakou and Savalou, and the restoration of the prisons in Cotonou, Porto-Novo, Akpro-Missérété, Lokossa and Kandi.[37] However, detention conditions remained extremely poor. Reforms were under way with a view to ensuring the effective enjoyment of rights in prison facilities, and a new prison policy was being developed to more speedily reduce prison overcrowding. The social reintegration of released prisoners presented a challenge.[38]

21. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Benin reduce prison overcrowding by continuing implementing its prison construction projects and applying alternatives to pretrial detention,[39] improve hygiene conditions and access to food and health care, regularly monitor conditions of detention and ensure that prisoners were separated according to their category, age and sex.[40] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended providing adequate health facilities and services, in particular for pregnant women, and educational programmes.[41]

2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law[42]

22. OHCHR indicated that progress had been made in improving access to justice.[43] Measures had included the submission, in 2016, of the declaration recognizing the competence of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to receive cases from NGOs and individuals; the adoption of Act No. 2016-16 amending and supplementing the Code of Civil Procedure; the approval of the new Code of Criminal Procedure; the expected promulgation of the Act on community service; and the ongoing construction of new courts and police units and stations.[44] However, OHCHR noted deficiencies in terms of infrastructure and of judicial staffing and training, as well as the slow pace of investigations — all of which resulted in excessively long periods of detention — courts' distance away

from populations living in remote areas, and a poor understanding of human rights and the operation of the justice system on the part of the authorities.[45]

23. The Special Rapporteur on sale of children regretted impunity and corruption in Benin, which greatly impeded the application of the law. She also noted that, notwithstanding some progress, the administration of the country continued to be ineffective and very centralized. According to a survey, corruption in Benin had a heavy impact on the functioning of the administration.[46] The Human Rights Committee expressed similar concerns and recommended that Benin reform the judiciary in order to guarantee its independence, and adopt the bill on the Supreme Council of Justice, making sure that the executive branch did not influence its activity or interfere in the appointment, promotion or dismissal of judges.[47]

24. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that the most disadvantaged persons were not yet receiving free legal assistance. It recommended that Benin facilitate access to lawyers for all and provide legal assistance to the most disadvantaged.[48]

25. The same Committee was concerned by the abusive use of pretrial detention and cases of excessively long detention pending trial. It recommended that Benin publicize the provisions of the new Code of Criminal Procedure and ensure their application, make the commission for compensation for illegal detention operational and increase the number of judges.[49]

26. The Special Rapporteur on sale of children was alarmed about the large number of cases of sexual abuse that did not lead to a conviction, due to the failure of the judicial authorities.[50] She recommended introducing, at central and local level, accountability and monitoring/evaluation mechanisms.[51]

27. The Human Rights Committee deplored the impunity allegedly enjoyed by persons suspected of having committed acts of torture, pursuant to Act No. 90/028 on amnesty for crimes committed between 1972 and 1990. It recommended that Benin conduct thorough and impartial investigations into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, including such acts committed between 1972 and 1990.[52]

3. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life[53]

28. The Human Rights Committee was concerned about restrictions on rallies and demonstrations. It regretted restrictions to freedom of expression, including by the High Authority for Audiovisual Media and Communication. The Committee recommended that Benin facilitate equal access to the public media; revise article 143 of the Constitution, which allowed the Head of State to appoint the High Authority for Audiovisual Media and Communication; and guarantee the independence and impartiality of that institution.[54]

29. While taking note of the adoption of the new Information and Communication Code, the Human Rights Committee was concerned that the statute of limitations for media offences had been extended and that the Code covered offences related to insulting Heads of State and diplomatic officials. The Committee pointed out that the law should not provide for more severe penalties solely on the basis of the identity of the person impugned, and recommended that Benin ensure that the new bill on the conditions governing associations and the Information and Communication Code were in conformity with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[55]

30. UNESCO recommended decriminalizing defamation and placing it within a civil code that was in accordance with international standards.[56]

31. The Human Rights Committee expressed its concern in respect of the unexplained deaths of a journalist and a student, and the attempted assassination of a human rights defender.[57]

32. The Human Rights Committee was concerned by the low level of representation of women in both public service and the private sector, especially in positions of responsibility and regretted that the act providing for quotas had not been adopted yet. The Human Rights Committee recommended adopting special temporary measures to increase women's participation in all aspects of public and political life.[58] The Committee on the Elimination

of Discrimination against Women called upon Benin to expeditiously adopt the draft law establishing quotas for women in elected positions.[60]

4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery[60]

33. The Special Rapporteur on sale of children was concerned that many children in Benin were victims of sale, trafficking and economic and sexual exploitation, and at the relative social tolerance towards those crimes and the impunity of the perpetrators. She also noted that the laws relating to the protection of children were ineffectively implemented due to difficulties of access for children to recourse mechanisms guaranteeing their protection and safety, as well as corruption and impunity.[61] She recommended adopting a cross-cutting approach centred on children's rights and which aimed to put in place an overarching strategic framework for comprehensive child protection.[62] She recommended strengthening the social responsibility of the private sector by developing public/private partnerships, in particular with the tourism and travel sector, Internet access providers, telecommunications companies, transport sector unions and the media; and encouraging all hotels, tour operators and transporters to sign the Code of Conduct in order to combat child sex tourism.[63]

34. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regretted the absence of a comprehensive strategy addressing prevention, protection, assistance and legal support for victims of trafficking. It recommended providing adequate assistance to victims, including refugee and asylum-seeking women, and to consider the establishment of a national mechanism to coordinate efforts to combat trafficking.[64]

35. The same Committee recommended expediting the adoption of the draft law on trafficking in persons, in line with international law.[65] The Human Rights Committee made similar recommendations.[66]

36. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women also recommended providing training to the judiciary, law enforcement officials, the border police and social workers on the existing anti-trafficking provisions regarding children and on how to identify and deal with victims of trafficking.[67]

37. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned about the prevalence of child labour among children under 14 years of age, including the worst forms of child labour.[68] According to a survey, about 34 per cent of children worked in Benin, and in Donga and Collines, 76.1 per cent and 70.2 per cent respectively.[69]

38. The Special Rapporteur on sale of children was concerned at the distortion of the traditional practice of *vidomégon* into forced labour. She had received information according to which 90 per cent of so-called *vidomégon* children* did not go to school. They were employed at markets and in the street trade, in addition to performing unpaid domestic tasks. Young *vidomégon* girls, in addition to being exploited economically, were reportedly often victims of prostitution.[70] The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Benin strengthen community-based mechanisms to prevent and combat economic exploitation of children, and consider raising the minimum age for admission to employment or work to 15 years.[71] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Benin regulate and monitor the working conditions of girls employed as *vidomégons*, through increased inspections and fines for employers, and that it integrate them into the educational system.[72]

5. Right to privacy and family life

39. The Special Rapporteur on sale of children stressed the importance of establishing an independent oversight mechanism for adoptions, although the Family Code made provision for a strict adoption process.[73]

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* Children in the care of families traditionally responsible for looking after them, particularly in regard to their education.

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

40. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the absence of information on progress in the implementation of the National Policy for Employment (2011-2015). It recommended that Benin apply the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value and the principle of equal opportunities at work, and address the wage gap between women and men.[74]

41. The Committee was concerned about the concentration of women in the informal sector. It recommended that Benin monitor and improve the working conditions of women by removing the obstacles that women faced in entering the labour force, implementing measures to promote reconciliation of family and work responsibilities of women and men and providing a regulatory framework for the informal sector.[75]

42. The Committee also recommended that Benin intensify technical and vocational training for women in traditionally male-dominated fields.[76]

2. Right to social security

43. The Special Rapporteur on sale of children recommended providing social protection and support strategies for families facing hardship, through administrative and legal assistance, support and parental guidance.[77]

3. Right to an adequate standard of living[78]

44. In 2016, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) noted that in Benin, 64.2 per cent of the population was multidimensionally poor, while an additional 16.9 per cent was near multidimensional poverty. The breadth of deprivation in Benin was 53.3 per cent. The Special Rapporteur on sale of children noted that 44 per cent of children under 5 years of age lived in the poorest households.[79]

45. According to UNDP, although the Human Development Index value for Benin increased from 0.345 in 1990 to 0.485 in 2015, Benin was in the low human development category, at 167 out of 188 countries and territories.[80]

46. The Special Rapporteur on sale of children recommended adopting integrated local development plans to improve the living conditions and standards of vulnerable populations and provide vulnerable children and families with equitable access to social and protection services.[81]

4. Right to health[82]

47. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that the infant, neonatal and maternal mortality rates remain very high and that 20 per cent of children under 5 years of age are underweight and 40 per cent suffer from moderate to severe stunting.[83]

48. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the prevalence of malaria, and the insufficient number of health-care personnel, in particular midwives in rural areas.[84]

49. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Benin reduce infant and child mortality, focusing on prevention and treatment, improving nutrition and sanitary conditions, increasing access to drinking water, especially in the rural areas and in schools, and fighting against communicable diseases, malnutrition and malaria. It also recommended that Benin make the universal health insurance scheme operational.[85]

50. The same Committee recommended that Benin adopt a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policy for adolescents and ensure that sexual and reproductive health education was part of the mandatory school curriculum and was targeted at adolescent girls and boys, with special attention to preventing early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.[86]

51. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Benin adopt the implementing decree of Act No. 2005-31 (2006) on HIV/AIDS, and increase the provision of free antiretroviral treatment to all women and men living with HIV/AIDS.[87]

5. Right to education[88]

52. The Special Rapporteur on sale of children was concerned at the deficient quality of teaching, at the fact that only 30 per cent of children could read and write correctly by the end of primary school and that some children must walk miles to school, and at the considerable disparities between regions.[89]

53. UNESCO noted that, during its second universal periodic review, Benin had been encouraged to guarantee the accessibility and quality of education and to increase school enrolment rates, including through the adoption of education strategies.[90] These recommendations had been implemented in part through the adoption of the third stage of the 10-year plan for the education sector.[91] UNESCO noted that, in March 2016, Benin had received funding from the Global Partnership for Education for the development of an education sector plan for the period 2017-2025. Benin should draw up objectives for improving the quality of education and providing everyone with learning opportunities, without discrimination or exclusion.[92]

54. UNESCO also recalled that, during its second universal periodic review, Benin had accepted a recommendation that it should guarantee the provision of education free of charge. However, school fees had not been abolished completely and therefore constituted an obstacle to education for disadvantaged children. Guaranteeing truly free basic education remained a significant challenge for Benin.[93]

55. UNESCO noted that, according to the available data, the gender equality index for primary education had increased in Benin, rising from 0.53 to 0.85 between 2002 and 2014. However, major progress still needed to be made in order to ensure that the number of girls completing primary education was the same as the number of boys. Furthermore, greater disparities had been observed in secondary education, resulting from the social, economic and health barriers that had a significant impact on girls' ability to stay in school and study.[94]

56. UNESCO welcomed the decision taken by the Government in 2015 to exempt girls from fees for upper secondary education at State schools.[95] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Benin strengthen literacy programmes for women and girls, especially in rural areas.[96]

57. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Benin pay special attention to the socioeconomic and regional disparities in access to education, in particular by preventing children from economically disadvantaged households from being excluded, and that it ensure equal opportunities. It also recommended that Benin raise the number of qualified teachers, particularly female teachers.[97] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Human Rights Committee made similar recommendations.[98]

58. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Benin strengthen the educational infrastructure taking into account the gender-specific concerns of women and girls, including the availability of appropriate sanitary facilities.[99]

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women[100]

59. While welcoming legislative measures taken in 2012, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern that harmful practices, such as child and forced marriages, polygamy, female genital mutilation, widowhood practices, levirate and sororate, and purification rites for adulterous women, continued to be prevalent and go unpunished.[101]

60. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the efforts of Benin to disseminate legislation on the prevention and prohibition of violence against women. However, it was concerned at the alarming rates of both domestic and sexual violence against women, and that the vast majority of such cases remained underreported, owing to cultural taboos and to the reluctance of women, especially disadvantaged groups of women, to report violence.[102] It recommended stepping up efforts to disseminate information on the existence of new legal provisions, and ensuring that women were duly informed about the available legal remedies.[103] The Human Rights Committee recommended improving the services provided by the integrated support centres for victims of gender-based violence, and ensuring that cases of violence against women were investigated, perpetrators were prosecuted and victims were awarded reparation.[104]

61. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that female genital mutilation was often practised outside the territory of Benin, in neighbouring countries, to avoid prosecution. The Committee urged Benin to systematically train judges and law enforcement officers, establish mechanisms to facilitate victim identification and ensure effective regional and bilateral cooperation with neighbouring countries to ensure the prosecution and punishment of all acts of female genital mutilation.[105] The Committee on the Rights of the Child raised similar recommendations.[106]

62. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that women in Benin, especially in rural areas, continued to suffer discrimination. The Committee recommended ensuring that the legal provisions governing equality between men and women were effectively applied by publicizing the relevant laws among the general public and the judiciary.[107]

63. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in all spheres of life and the limited efforts to combat discrimination against women. The same Committee recommended conducting awareness-raising efforts targeting the general public and the media, and urgently completing the review of school textbooks.[108]

64. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Benin strengthen its initiatives aimed at encouraging the sustainable economic empowerment of women, in particular in rural areas, including through training on microenterprise development and management, and that it periodically monitor the impact of those initiatives.[109] The Committee also recommended the use of temporary special measures, in order to ensure that women participated in the decision-making process and management of resources.[110]

65. While welcoming the adoption of Act No. 2007-03 on rural land tenure, which guaranteed to women the right to inherit rural land, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that the customary practice of excluding women from inheriting agricultural land remained dominant in rural areas and that women continued to face practical difficulties in gaining access to both land and credit. The Committee recommended conducting awareness-raising activities targeting the general public in rural areas, including traditional leaders, to effectively implement the Land Code and to ensure that women had access to land and credit facilities on an equal basis with men.[111]

66. While welcoming the regulatory framework regarding birth registration, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that practical and bureaucratic obstacles continued to prevent women from registering births and obtaining birth certificates. It recommended facilitating access to birth registration services for all women, especially for poor and rural women, and considering establishing a monitoring mechanism to ensure the enforcement of its regulatory framework.[112] The Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Rights of the Child made similar recommendations.[113]

2. Children[114]

67. The Special Rapporteur on sale of children expressed concern at rites of initiation, at excision and at the treatment of talibe children.[115] The Committee on the Rights of the Child

was concerned by the absence of prosecutions or convictions of religious leaders and parents who sent children to beg in the streets.[115] The Committee was also concerned at the practice of sequestration of children, especially girls, in voodoo convents, because of family traditions and beliefs. It noted that such children were deprived of education, and were subjected to ill-treatment, including scarification rites and sexual abuse.[115]

68. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Benin investigate and prosecute persons responsible for harmful practices against children, and urgently remove children from environments where such practices took place.[115]

69. The same Committee recommended that Benin provide children in street situations with the necessary protection and accommodation, adequate health services, education and other social services, according to their needs.[115]

70. The same Committee, while welcoming the interministerial decree on a code of conduct with regard to sexual abuses in schools, was concerned at the gravity and extent of violence and abuse against children, notably within the family.[120] The Special Rapporteur on sale of children noted that more than 89 per cent of children had been victims of one form of violence at school.[121]

71. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Benin design policies and programmes to address ill-treatment and abuse of children, institute mandatory reporting procedures with regard to child abuse and conduct awareness campaigns in order to change attitudes and practices conducive to violence.[122] The Committee on the Rights of the Child also recommended working closely with traditional leaders and community-based organizations in that regard.[123]

72. The Special Rapporteur on sale of children recommended adopting a genuine comprehensive child protection strategy with local protection mechanisms readily accessible to all children.[124]

73. While noting with satisfaction the Children's Act, and the two pilot child-friendly courts established in the jurisdictions of Abomey-Calavi and Abomey, the Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned about inhumane and degrading detention conditions for juveniles, especially in the Abomey-Calavi prison, at the insufficient number of juvenile judges and at the lack of alternative measures to deprivation of liberty.[125]

74. OHCHR noted some progress towards adoption of the Children's Code, and some efforts to ensure civil registration of children. It recommended the introduction of a national computerized system for birth registration and greater efforts to raise public awareness of the importance of birth registration and the obtaining of a birth certificate.[126]

3. Persons with disabilities[127]

75. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned about the social exclusion of children with disabilities from many spheres of society. The Committee urged Benin to develop inclusive education, ensure that children with disabilities had access to health care, and combat the stigmatization of and prejudice against children with disabilities.[128]

Notes

[1] Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for Benin will be available at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/BJIndex.aspx.

[2] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 107.1, 108.1-108.2, 108.21-108.28, 108.36 and 109.1-109.4.

[3] See A/HRC/22/9, paras. 107.1 and 108.1.

[4] See OHCHR Regional Office for West Africa submission to the universal periodic review of Benin, para. 10.

[5] Ibid., para. 2.

[6] Ibid., paras. 36-37.

[7] Ibid., para. 5.

[8] For relevant recommendations, A/HRC/22/9, paras. 108.4-108.28 and 109.6-109.8.

[54] See OHCHR Regional Office submission, paras. 13 and 16.
[55] Ibid., para. 16.
[56] See CCPR/C/BEN/CO/2, paras. 8-9.
[57] See OHCHR Regional Office submission, para. 27.
[58] See A/HRC/25/48/Add.3, para. 69.
[59] Ibid., para. 104 (a).
[60] Ibid., para. 107 (b).
[61] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 110.1-110.5.
[62] See CCPR/C/BEN/CO/2, para. 3 (c).
[63] See CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4, paras. 38-39.
[64] Ibid., paras. 24-25.
[65] See CRC/C/BEN/CO/3-5, paras. 32-33.
[66] UNHCR, *UNHCR Global Report 2014: Ending Statelessness*, p. 85.
[67] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 108.32-108.34 and 108.37-108.39.
[68] See CCPR/C/BEN/CO/2, paras. 18-19.
[69] See OHCHR Regional Office submission, para. 14. For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/22/9, para. 108.32.
[70] See OHCHR Regional Office submission, para. 14.
[71] Ibid., para. 33.
[72] Ibid., para. 33.
[73] See CCPR/C/BEN/CO/2, paras. 20-21.
[74] See CRC/C/BEN/CO/3-5, paras. 35 and 43.
[75] See OHCHR Regional Office submission, para. 31.
[76] See A/HRC/25/48/Add.3, para. 13.
[77] See CCPR/C/BEN/CO/2, para. 22.
[78] For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/22/9, para. 108.10.
[79] See OHCHR Regional Office submission, para. 15. For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 108.11-108.16.
[80] See CCPR/C/BEN/CO/2, paras. 22-23.
[81] Ibid., para. 27.
[82] See OHCHR Regional Office submission, para. 20.
[83] Ibid., para. 19.
[84] See CCPR/C/BEN/CO/2, para. 27.
[85] Ibid.
[86] See CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4, para. 37.
[87] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 108.33, 108.78, 108.80 and 108.78-108.80.
[88] For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 108.78-108.79.
[89] See OHCHR Regional Office submission, para. 20.
[90] Ibid., para. 23.
[91] See A/HRC/25/48/Add.3, para. 8.
[92] See CCPR/C/BEN/CO/2, paras. 28-29.
[93] Ibid., paras. 30-31.
[94] Ibid., paras. 24-25.
[95] See A/HRC/25/48/Add.3, para. 52.
[96] Ibid., para. 100 (b).
[97] See CCPR/C/BEN/CO/2, paras. 22-23.
[98] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/9, para. 108.81.
[99] See CCPR/C/BEN/CO/2, paras. 32-33.
[100] Ibid.
[101] See UNESCO submission to the universal periodic review of Benin, para. 20.
[102] See CCPR/C/BEN/CO/2, paras. 18-19.
[103] Ibid., paras. 10-11.
[104] See CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4, paras. 22-23.
[105] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 108.69-108.77.
[106] See A/HRC/25/48/Add.3, paras. 93-94.
[107] Ibid., para. 98.
[108] Ibid., para. 106.
[109] See CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4, paras. 20-21.
[110] Ibid.
[111] See CCPR/C/BEN/CO/2, paras. 14-15.
[112] See CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4, paras. 20-21.
[113] See CRC/C/BEN/CO/3-5, para. 62.
[114] See A/HRC/25/48/Add.3, para. 34.

[115] Ibid., para. 15.
[116] See CRC/C/BEN/CO/3-5, paras. 62-63.
[117] See CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4, paras. 28-29.
[118] See A/HRC/25/48/Add.3, para. 10.
[119] See CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4, paras. 28-29.
[120] Ibid.
[121] Ibid.
[122] See A/HRC/25/48/Add.3, para. 102 (b).
[123] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 108.93-108.97.
[124] See A/HRC/25/48/Add.3, para. 7.
[125] United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2016* — Benin.
[126] See A/HRC/25/48/Add.3, para. 102.
[127] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 108.98-108.101.
[128] See CRC/C/BEN/CO/3-5, paras. 52-53.
[129] See CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4, para. 32.
[130] See CRC/C/BEN/CO/3-5, paras. 52-53.
[131] Ibid., paras. 56-57.
[132] See CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4, para. 33 (a).
[133] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 108.103-108.114.
[134] See A/HRC/25/48/Add.3, para. 33.
[135] For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 108.103-108.114.
[136] See UNESCO submission, para. 15.
[137] Ibid., para. 16.
[138] Ibid., para. 17.
[139] Ibid., para. 18.
[140] Ibid., para. 19.
[141] See CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4, paras. 26-27, and CRC/C/BEN/CO/3-5, paras. 60-61.
[142] See CRC/C/BEN/CO/3-5, paras. 60-61.
[143] See CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4, paras. 26-27, and CCPR/C/BEN/CO/2, paras. 34-35.
[144] See CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4, paras. 26-27.
[145] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 108.46-108.54 and 108.86-108.87.
[146] See CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4, paras. 4 and 16.
[147] Ibid., para. 18.
[148] Ibid., para. 19 (c).
[149] See CCPR/C/BEN/CO/2, paras. 16-17.
[150] See CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4, paras. 16-17.
[151] See CRC/C/BEN/CO/3-5, paras. 40-41.
[152] See CCPR/C/BEN/CO/2, paras. 10-11.
[153] See CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4, paras. 16-17.
[154] Ibid., para. 31.
[155] Ibid., paras. 34-35.
[156] Ibid., paras. 34-35.
[157] Ibid., paras. 24-25.
[158] See CCPR/C/BEN/CO/2, paras. 34-35, and CRC/C/BEN/CO/3-5, paras. 30-31.
[159] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 108.31, 108.49-108.51, 108.55-108.56, 108.70 and 108.76-108.77.
[160] See A/HRC/25/48/Add.3, para. 35.
[161] See CRC/C/BEN/CO/3-5, para. 64.
[162] Ibid., para. 42.
[163] Ibid., paras. 42-43.
[164] Ibid., para. 92.
[165] Ibid., paras. 36-39.
[166] See A/HRC/25/48/Add.3, para. 38.
[167] See CRC/C/BEN/CO/3-5, paras. 36-37.
[168] See CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4, paras. 16-17.
[169] See A/HRC/25/48/Add.3, para. 96.
[170] See CRC/C/BEN/CO/3-5, para. 68.
[171] See OHCHR Regional Office submission, paras. 29-30.
[172] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 108.114-108.115.
[173] See CRC/C/BEN/CO/3-5, paras. 50-51.